



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

May-June 2008

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

2008 Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) Conference - Spotlight on Recycling Opportunities

Erica Trout of the VRA submitted the following story about the recent conference that was held in Virginia Beach. She writes:

"On May 1 and 2 over 170 recycling professionals convened at the Virginia Recycling Association Conference held in Virginia Beach, VA. "The focus of this year's conference had a lot to do with how many opportunities we have in Virginia to make a real change for recycling and litter programs," said VRA's Association Manager, Erica Trout. "The VRA presented some of our new initiatives during the member business meeting which include the school recycling initiative and the recycling license plate." Some of the session topics included Green Business, Markets Updates, Litter Technologies and Legislative Opportunities where local politicians or lobbyists held a panel discussion about recycling and environmental issues. The VRA is currently planning their Annual Members meeting which will take place in Charlottesville on November 6th and is free to all members. "The planning committee is putting together another great program, where we will have speakers talk about professional development issues including how to manage people, how to manage volunteers, how to lead meetings and how to build and manage teams," Trout explained."

For more information, contact Erica Trout at vra@vrarecycles.org or (804) 302-4231.

Virginia Tech's Adopt-a-Bin Program

Conor Byrne, a student and a member of a student group called Engineers without Borders, is hoping to promote recycling on the Virginia Tech campus. His idea is that by placing recycling bins next to trash cans, students will have a choice whether to throw their recyclables in the trash bin or the recycling bin. If recycling is convenient, Mr. Byrne thinks that the students will choose to recycle. Mr. Byrne is campaigning to get other student organizations to sponsor and decorate recycling bins to be placed around campus.

To learn more about this program, contact Larry Bechtel, the Recycling Program Manager for Virginia Tech's Recycling Program at lbechtel@vt.edu or (540) 231-9915.

Did You Know?

- ✓ The performance and accounting report (pages 7 – 10) for the non-competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant **MUST be postmarked by August 31, 2008** for the application to be complete. Go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/programs.html> or contact Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4055.
- ✓ Virginia's Manual on the Business of Recycling has been updated. To see the revised manual, go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/in.html> Scroll down to Business Assistance with Recycling. Contact Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4055.
- ✓ The **Virginia Recycling Association** selected a design for the new recycling license plate. The VRA's goal is to have 350 pre-paid license plate applications by November 2008. To view the license plate and get more information, go to www.vrarecycles.org or contact Erica Trout at vra@vrarecycles.org or (804) 302-4231.
- ✓ The **Virginia Recycling Association (VRA)** continues to host school recycling workshops! The VRA will host a workshop on July 17 at the Metropolitan Council of Governments in Washington, D.C. The next one will be held on August 1 in Abingdon. To get more information, visit the VRA website at www.vrarecycles.org or contact Erica Trout at vra@vrarecycles.org or (804) 302-4231.
- ✓ TerraCycle started a pilot program that accepts yogurt cups, pouches and energy bar food wrappers for recycling. The TerraCycle website states that they are not set up to accommodate items collected by recycling centers, but they are open to businesses and organizations. TerraCycle will also pay 501(C3) organizations for their collected items. For more information, visit the TerraCycle website at www.terracycle.net

Recyclemania Results

Over 400 colleges and universities throughout the nation participated in the 2008 Recyclemania competition. Collectively, schools reported 58.6 million pounds recycled in 2008.

There were 16 schools from Virginia that participated this year. The Recyclemania website lists the top five schools that competed in each category. **Virginia Military Institute** ranked # 4 in the nation for the amount of corrugated cardboard collected.

For more information about Recyclemania, go to: www.recyclemaniacs.org

Recycling Lines Continued

2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

The Secretary of Natural Resources, L. Preston Bryant, Jr., announced the winners of the 2008 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards on April 22 at the Environment Virginia Conference in Lexington. There were 33 award recipients. Government agencies, industrial facilities, and individuals were recognized. To find out what organizations and individuals were recognized, go to:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/geeaward.html>

Many were recognized in part for their Environmental Management Systems (EMS) which may have included; increased recycling, reduced use of natural resources, reduction in pollution, sustainability projects, waste minimization and waste diversion.

An EMS is a plan that helps an organization to reduce its environmental footprint while increasing its environmental friendliness. For more information about EMS, go to the Environmental Protection Agency website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ems> or visit the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Environmental Excellence website at www.deq.virginia.gov/veep

For more information about the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards, contact Bill Hayden, DEQ, at wphayden@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4447.

How Does Recycling Impact Greenhouse Emissions?

There are two key ways that recycling has an impact on greenhouse gas emissions:

1. It keeps recyclables from going to a landfill where decomposing trash emits methane.
2. Manufacturing products with recycled feedstock uses up to 40 percent less energy than when raw material is used. For example, with each bundle of newspaper is recycled, more trees are left as forest cover which absorb carbon dioxide.

Here are some interesting facts about recycling from the EPA's WasteWise program:

Approximately 32 percent of the U.S. solid waste stream gets recycled. If the national recycling figure were to increase to 35 percent, we would be saving the equivalent of 57 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The average power plant produces about 1 million metric tons of CO₂ per year.

From 1990 to 2005, carbon dioxide emissions from aluminum manufacturing decreased by 38 percent due to increased recycling. Meanwhile, recycled paper product use increased so forest cover has increased so trees have absorbed 16 percent more carbon dioxide.

One ton of aluminum recycled will save 13 tons of carbon dioxide and one ton of newspapers recycled will save 2.5 tons of CO₂.

For more information about the importance of recycling and tips on how to increase recycling, visit the EPA's WasteWise program page at <http://www.epa.gov/wastewise/>

Into the Bin and Back Again

The Association of Post consumer Plastic Recyclers is offering three free web-based seminars. Registration is required for these sessions. The topics and the titles and the link to go to register are provided below:

Getting to Know You: The Ins and Outs of the Plastics Recycling Industry

Thursday, July 10, 2008

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. EDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/839651766>

Working with the Middle Man: Tools for Efficient Plastic Recycling

Thursday, July 24, 2008

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. EDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/e89574998>

Plastic Recycling: Switching to All Bottles Collection

Thursday, August 7, 2008

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. EDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/800803584>

For more information about these workshops contact Keefe Harrison of the Association of Post consumer Plastic Recyclers at postconsumerplastic@gmail.com

Construction and Demolition Processing Operation to Expand its Services in Page County

On May 8, 2008, Governor Timothy Kaine announced that Shenandoah Waste Services LLC will expand its materials recycling operation in **Page County**. The construction and demolition material will be diverted from landfills, and will be used as an alternative energy source, animal bedding, and other uses.

To read the news release on the Governor's website, go to: <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=658> or contact Gordon Hickey of Shenandoah Waste Services at (804) 225-4260.

Web Links of Interest:

The **Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA)** has a newsletter called "The Regional Waste Line." It is full of information about what is happening in the 13 local governments that CVWMA represents. Information in the May newsletter includes information about their compact fluorescent light bulb recycling program, promoting composting opportunities for citizens, the success that CVWMA is having with a pilot school recycling program, a teacher resource page for teaching about litter and recycling and more! Go to: <http://www.cvwma.com/>

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